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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects?, to be held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from 16 to 18 May 2017

Guidelines and rules of procedure

I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-fifth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 65/119, declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex) and to cooperate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade.

2. At its seventy-first session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/122, approved the report of the Special Committee (A/71/23), including the programme of work envisaged for 2017, and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and, among other things, to conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars.

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II. Place and dates of the seminar

3. The Caribbean regional seminar will be held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from 16 to 18 May 2017.

III. Purpose of the seminar

4. The purpose of the seminar is to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society, Member States and other stakeholders that can assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical means that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. The discussions at the seminar will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.

5. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2017, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

IV. Theme and agenda of the seminar

6. The theme of the seminar is "Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: what are the prospects?". The agenda of the seminar is as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in the future for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis:
   - (a) Review and assessment of the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, with a view towards strengthening the work of the Committee;
   - (b) What are the prospects for decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of the remaining years of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism?.
2. Perspectives of the administering Powers, territorial Governments, concerned Member States and other stakeholders, as well as views of experts on the decolonization process:
   - (a) Political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:
     - (i) In the Caribbean region;

(ii) In the Pacific region;

(iii) In other regions;

(b) Strengthening cooperation with the administering Powers, the Non-Self-Governing Territories, concerned Member States and other stakeholders on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, according to the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, especially its economic dimension, taking into account the indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(i) In the Caribbean region;

(ii) In the Pacific region;

(iii) In other regions.

3. Role of the United Nations system in providing development assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories taking into account the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions: presentations by the funds and programmes, specialized agencies, regional economic commissions and others.

4. Recommendations for advancing decolonization.

V. Organization of the seminar

7. The following provisions will govern the organization of the seminar:

(a) The seminar will be organized by the Special Committee, in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chair, his adviser, members of the Bureau and four other members representing each of the regional groups within the Special Committee;

(c) The seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of Member States;

(ii) Representatives of the host Government;

(iii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iv) Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(v) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(vi) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vii) Representatives of the organizations based in the region and in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Annex

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The regional seminar is held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 71/122. The organization of the seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the established practices of the Special Committee at previous seminars.[a]

Rule 1
Responsibility for conducting the seminar

The seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted on its behalf by the Chair of the Special Committee, with the assistance of the Bureau of the seminar (see rule 2 (a) below) and the Committee secretariat (see rule 3 below).

Rule 2
Officers of the seminar

(a) The Chair shall appoint two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur of the seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. These officers shall be given specific responsibilities by the Chair and shall constitute the Bureau of the seminar.

(b) The Chair shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, pose questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chair is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chair shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3
Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the seminar.

Rule 4
Languages

The working languages of the seminar shall be English, French and Spanish.

[a] A/520/Rev.17.

Rule 5
Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chair in consultation with the Bureau of the seminar.

Rule 6
Participation in the seminar

Participation in the seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chair of the Special Committee, in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly,[b] and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chair.

Rule 7
Debates and publicity concerning the seminar

(a) The meetings of the seminar shall be held in public, unless the Chair decides that exceptional circumstances require that a meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements to the information media shall be made by the Chair. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the seminar held in public.

(c) Participating organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the mandate of the Committee and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the seminar.

(d) The Chair may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chair, with the consent of the seminar, may declare the list of speakers closed. When there are no speakers, the Chair shall, with the consent of the seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8
Records

The seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations, in accordance with established practice.

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[b] See A/56/61, annex, para. 22 (c).

Rule 9
Report

The Rapporteur of the seminar shall prepare and present the draft procedural report on the proceedings of the seminar and other proposals before the seminar, for adoption at the concluding meeting of the seminar and with interpretation in the languages of the seminar (see rule 4 above). Members of the Special Committee who participate in the seminar will prepare and agree on the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, for consideration and adoption at the Committee's substantive session.